

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (original): A method of transmitting traffic from a line card to a switching card comprising:

receiving traffic in at least one line card;

directing the traffic to an outgoing port of the line card;

organizing the traffic into a 6 millisecond superframe;

allocating the traffic among a plurality of channels in the 6 millisecond superframe wherein the 6 millisecond superframe operates at a fixed line rate of about 3.1104 Gbps;

transmitting the traffic from the at least one line card to a switching card.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the traffic received in the at least one line card is voice traffic.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the traffic received in the at least one line card is data traffic.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the traffic received in the at least one line card further comprises voice traffic and data traffic.

Claim 5 (original): The method of Claim 2 wherein the voice traffic is sampled.

Claim 6 (original): The method of Claim 2 wherein the voice traffic is converted into DS0s.

Claim 7 (original): The method of Claim 2 wherein the voice traffic is converted into fixed length packets.

Claim 8 (original): The method of Claim 4 wherein the voice traffic is sampled.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 4 wherein the voice traffic is converted into fixed length packets.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the switching card comprises a plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports.

Claim 11 (original): A method of transmitting a signal encoded with a message of fixed size from a line card to a switching card comprising:

receiving serial traffic in a line card;

directing the traffic to an outgoing port of the line card;

converting the traffic from serial to parallel;

organizing the parallel traffic into a 6 millisecond superframe;

allocating the parallel traffic among a plurality of channels in the 6 millisecond superframe;

converting the traffic from parallel to serial; and

transmitting the serial traffic from the line card to a switching card.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A ~~bus for coupling a line card to a switching card,~~
system comprising:

a plurality of line units; and

a switch for connecting traffic coming from a plurality of outgoing ports on the plurality of line units to a plurality of incoming ports on the plurality of line units; and

a bus carrying at least one 6 millisecond superframe transporting data between at least one line unit of the first plurality and the switch.

Claim 13(currently amended): The ~~[[bus]]~~ system of Claim 12, wherein each line unit of the plurality of line units further comprises at least one ~~[[SerDes]]~~ serializer/deserializer for converting traffic ~~[[to]]~~ from parallel to serial and from serial to parallel.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The ~~[[bus]]~~ system of Claim 12, wherein at least one line unit further comprises at least one codec for sampling voice traffic coming into the line unit.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The [[bus]] system of Claim 12, wherein at least one line unit further comprises at least one access processor for converting data into a format for transport over the 6 millisecond superframe.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The [[bus]] system of Claim 12, wherein at least one line unit further comprises at least one incoming line of voice traffic.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The [[bus]] system of Claim 12, wherein at least one line unit further comprises at least one incoming line for data traffic.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The [[bus]] system of Claim 17, wherein at least one incoming line of data traffic is connected to [[the serdes]] a serializer/deserializer.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The [[bus]] system of Claim [[14]] 15, wherein the access processor converts the voice traffic into packets.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The [[bus]] system of Claim 12, wherein [[the serdes]] a serializer/deserializer converts parallel traffic to serial traffic.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The [[bus]] system of Claim 15, wherein the access processor allocates which outgoing port on the line unit the [[formatted]] formatted data is sent through.

Claims 22-40 (canceled).

Claim 41 (currently amended): A ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus based on a 6 millisecond superframe, comprising:

packetized traffic; and

frame traffic wherein the ~~GigaPoint~~ bus operates at a fixed line rate of 3.1104 Gbps.

Claim 42 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 41, wherein the packetized traffic is selected from the group consisting of TDM, Multicast or Broadband traffic.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 41, wherein the framing traffic includes STS traffic.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 41, wherein the 6 millisecond superframe further comprises 48 125 microsecond frames.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 41, wherein the 6 millisecond superframe further comprises the equivalent of 60 STS-1 channels.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 45, wherein each superframe uses a plurality of overhead bytes.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 45, wherein said plurality of overhead bytes are located in the first of the equivalent 60 STS-1 channels in the 6 millisecond superframe.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 41, wherein the superframe operates at a fixed line rate of 3.1104 Gbps.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The ~~GigaPoint-Bus~~ bus of Claim 45, wherein each channel is allocated to a type selected from the group consisting of packets, Broadband traffic or STS.

Claim 50 (original): A shelf comprising:

a plurality of line units selected from the group consisting of POTS, DS1, SONET, POTS/DSL;

a switch for directing traffic to an intended destination; and

a plurality of 6 millisecond superframes wherein there is at least one 6 millisecond superframe between each line unit in the plurality of line units and the switch.

Claim 51 (original): The shelf of Claim 50, wherein each 6 millisecond superframe operates at a line rate of 3.1104 Gbps.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A method of transmitting traffic from a line card to a switching card comprising:

transmitting traffic in a plurality of 125 microsecond frames in the 6 millisecond superframe, wherein the 6 millisecond superframe operates at a fixed line rate of about 3.1104 Gbps, each frame having a number of overhead bytes, including an overhead byte used to denote a state of configuration, and another overhead byte that monotonically changes across frames; and

rebooting said line card when said monotonically changing byte reaches a predetermined limit after an active reset signal is received.

Claim 53 (original): The method of Claim 52 wherein the monotonic change is decreasing from 48 to zero.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The method of Claim 53 further comprising:

changing a bit in the byte denoting configuration state in response to a change in an early extraction signal on a pin of a connector, indicating upcoming removal of the line card.

Claim 55 (original): The method of Claim 54 wherein each frame further comprises:
an overhead byte used for framing to delineate the superframe; and
another overhead byte used to carry parity for entire frame.

Claim 56 (original): The method of Claim 55 wherein the traffic includes at least one stream in conformance with SONET transmitted at 2.488 Gbps and another stream of packet data.

Claim 57 (canceled).

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